The Blank Box Newsletter

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"Your Source for the Latest News About Black Box Devices and De-Scrambling"

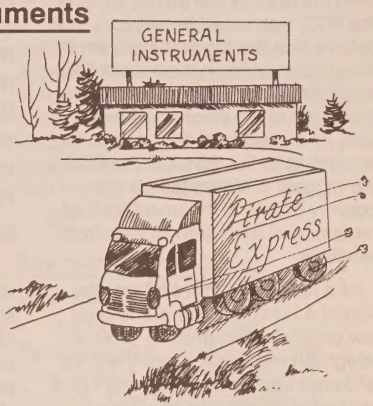
GI Employees Admit Selling Chips

Pirate VC II's Available Direct From General Instruments

If you were looking for a modified VC II that would allow you to receive all the scrambled channels without having to pay for them, you wouldn't have to look much further than GI's Hickory, N.C. plant. From employees at that plant you could purchase either fully modified VC II's, or just the computer chips that would allow you to do the modification yourself.

According to two of the GI employees involved in the selling of pirate decoders, they began selling chips and modified VC II's approximately 18 months ago, and continued until a recent GI internal investigation discovered their operation.

Upon finding out about the chip activity within their own employees, GI is said to have offered two of the individuals involved the opportunity to resign if they would provide information on other GI employees involved in similar activities. The two employees (Reggie Farmer & Mark Beals), declined to co-operate and terminated their employment with GI.



Sources close to the situation tell us that a number of people currently or previously employed by GI have been, and still are, involved in the development and marketing of chip technology using GI facilities and resources.

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Blank Box News Special Issue!

This special issue of **The Blank Box Newsletter** is being provided to over 20,000 new readers to let them know that there is a strong and growing contingent of people interested in what is really going on in the satellite underground - People who are tired of the lies and half truths being spread by the cable controlled mainstream media.

We hope you take time to read this newsletter, and if you like what you see, subscribe. Complete Subscription information is inside on page 14. (If you are already a subscriber, please pass this issue on. Thanks.)

From The Editors Desk

"In an unprecedented move, the SBCA and the Federal Communications Commission have petitioned the Justice Department to revise a 1953 agreement that gave the Justice Department sole responsibility for enforcing signal theft violations".

The SBCA feels that the Justice Department is too concerned about the rights of the citizens involved, whereas, the FCC would not let trivial laws and constitutional issues get in their way in the pursuit of Video Criminals.

Video Criminals?

If you listen to the rhetoric flowing from the likes of the SBCA, GI, and the FCC, you could be led to believe that the biggest problem in this country does not concern illicit drugs or the AIDS epidemic, or the problems of the poor and homeless, or the national debt crisis. No, according to the SBCA & the FCC, the biggest problem facing the country today, is the unauthorized reception of television signals from satellites.

As a result of current interpretation of a hundred year old federal law originally designed to protect telegraph messages from the likes of Jessie James and Billie the Kid, a new class of criminal has been created. The new interpretation of this old law, has changed more than one million, law abiding citizens into instant federal criminals. The crime? Watching TV signals captured from the airwaves surrounding their homes.

This Isn't Russia . . . Yet!

How can it be possible, that in the United States of America, it is illegal for a private citizen to attempt to monitor the public airwaves? Clearly a citizen should and must have the right to monitor the content of at least the airwaves that pass through his home.

If it is now illegal to use readily available equipment to monitor microwave transmissions that pass through your home, how long before it becomes illegal for you to monitor the quality of the air in your back yard. What happens if it becomes illegal for you to check for high levels of radiation in your back yard? (Don't laugh, ask people around Three Mile Island, Love Canal, or Cheynobyl how they feel about being able to monitor the content of the air around their homes).

It seems to me, that a citizen should have every right to use any means available to freely monitor the content and quality of the airwaves in and surrounding his home.

Its insane for the FCC to allow someone to bombard my home with low level microwave radiation, and then label me a "Pirate" because I may choose to monitor the content of that radiation.

If people using those airwaves wish to scramble, then that too should be their right. But, if they choose a scrambling system that is easily defeated, that's their problem. If they want to hide their signals it's their responsibility to do it right.

Gestapo Tactics?

Recently, we have been hearing 'horror' stories from a few satellite dealers who have been approached by private and federal investigators attempting to prevent them from selling or using their satellite equipment.

The tactics used by these "Video Police" include harrassing "Cease & Desist" letters, illegal search and seizures, and imtimidation by federal agents.

Maybe this is not Russia *yet*, but house to house searches and confiscation of personal property are the same tools used by Nazi Germany to force free thinking people

into line. Could it be possible that sometime in the not too distant future, Federal Agents could go door to door and confiscate TV sets from those not connected to cable systems?

Something is Wrong

If the radio industry had used the same tactics back in the late fifties that the anti-TVRO interests are currently using there would be no TV in America today.

What future technologies will we be deprived of because the greedy cable interests have destroyed consumer satellite technology today?

Its not Too Late . . .

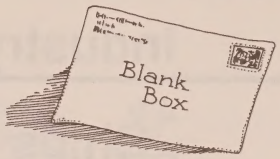
We need to change the direction that the FCC is leading this country into. We must have this change, or we will eventually lose all free tv in this country.

All that we need is a new FCC policy that simply says "*Private Citizens have the right to monitor any signals broadcast via public airways. Citizens may use any means they wish for the purpose of monitoring such signals. Such monitoring of these signal is for private use only.*"

I don't advocate *piracy* or *signal theft* and never have. However, the issue is not simply scrambling but basic citizen's rights, and giving up this freedom may be cost us our future.

Bill

Letters to The Blank Box



TRI-STAR SCAM Revisited

Dear BBN,

I am sorry I did not learn of your "Newsletter" sooner than I did. I have been subscribing for the last two months and think you have an excellent Newsletter.

I guess I am one of the many suckers out there. I saw an ad for "Scramble Free News Letter" from Canada, which was either advertised in Orbit or STV monthly magazine. I subscribed and promptly lost $499.00.

The Scramble-Free Newsletter ran a series of articles about a Korean De-Scrambler. Editor "Michael Thompson" said that he would be testing one, and that he had one in his possession. He said the unit worked "great".

In the same issue that "Michael Thompson" said the Korean De-scrambler was great, he had the name and address of TRI-Star-Electronics, the company selling the so-called Korean De-coder.

I sent them $499.00 (enclosed is a copy of the cashed check). That was six months ago. Since that time I have not heard from either Michael Thompson of The Scramble-Free-Newsletter or Mr. Luke Yeu Yuen from TRI-Star Electronics. They are both non-existent at the present time.

This appears to be an intentional con job, where the Scramble-Free Newsletter built up an interest and demand for the "Korean" decoder over a period of time, and then once the bait was set, took the money from those who ordered it. After getting the money, both the newsletter and TRI-Star disappeared.

If I had known about your newsletter sooner, I would have read about the Scramble-Free and TRI-Star rip off before I sent my money, and saved myself $499.00. Keep up the Good work. We need to Know.

Charles.

Dear Charles,

I'm sorry to hear that you are another one of the people that got ripped off by the Scramble-Free/TRI-Star con job. It saddens me to see people take advantage of consumers in this manner. The bad part, is that there is very little you can do about. Quite obviously the people involved are long gone, enjoying your and other people's money.

Bill

Video Tec Concerns

Dear BBN,

I look forward with great anticipation to each issue of the newsletter and they are getting better and better. But I have a complaint.

Last month, I was surprised to see you do a review of the Video-Tec News newsletter. I subscribe to Video-Tec news and I'm not happy with either their service or the contents of their publication.

Their newsletter doesn't come out on a regular basis (although they are promising bi-weekly), sometimes months go by and then I'll get an issue. They promised to send me a VC cool kit when I subscribed, and I haven't gotten it.

And worst of all, most of the stuff in their newsletter either isn't true, or contains many errors. The last issue of Video Tec news said that they only had 300 subscribers, and if everyone didn't renew they would go out of business. Now, they've got this big circulation push on, and say they have 30,000 subscribers, and they are promising gifts if you subscribe. It all sounds fishy to me. I just hope they aren't getting a lot of new subscriber money, and plan to fold in the near future.

Maybe Video Tec News plans to do better, but they'll have to prove it by me.

Steve

Dear Steve,

I appreciate that you took the time to write and tell me your feelings about Vide Tec News.

Since running the review of Video Tec News I've heard similar comments from other readers. But, it must be remembered that many publications, including this one, evolve from humble beginnings, into something that readers can enjoy.

We hope the problems you've related about Video Tec News are startup problems, and not an indication of tings to come.

But, as we advised in our review, we strongly suggest that anyone considering subscribing to Video Tec news or any other publication, call and get a sample issue first. This can give help you an idea of what future issues of the publication may offer.

Bill

Equipment Confiscation?

Dear BBN,

I've been hearing rumors that Federal Agents have been going door to door, collecting Video-Ciphers. Can this be possible.?

If agents appear at my door what should I do.

Nervous

Dear Nervous,

If anyone appears at your door asking about your satellite equipment, don't let them in, and don't tell them anything.

No one can enter your home and confiscate your equipment without your permission or a search warrant. If you give them permission to enter without a search warrant, you will have given up all your rights. It is highly unlikely that any judge will issue a search warrant to seize satellite equipment without probable cause showing the commission of a grievous crime.

Bill

Industry News

Chips Ahoy!

Modified Decoders Exceed One Million

"Legal" Decoders Account for less than 20% of all VC II's Sold

Based on the latest numbers, it appears that at least 80%, or approximately one million of the total 1.4 million VC II's manufactured by General Instrument, have been modified to allow *free* viewing of all scrambled channels.

Based on research that shows the average subscribers purchases $270.00 worth of programming a year, the use of modified decoders could be costing programmers as much as 270 million dollars per year.

Currently, with over 1.4 million VC II's in distribution, only 378,000 have been authorized for any services at all. It is believed that at least 100,000 of the authorized decoders are using the "Three Musketeer" type chips. (These chips require at least one service be subscribed to, in order that the remaining services come in free.)

Based on research that shows the average subscribers purchases $270.00 worth of programming a year, the use of modified decoders could be costing programmers as much as 270 million dollars per year.

General Instruments, the sole supplier of the decoder, has fared much better. Sales of the VC II, which were averaging just under 5000 units a month when first released, zoomed to an 18 month average of 45,000 units per month after it was shown how easy the unit could be modified. It is estimated that 80% of the VC II sales are directly due to the easy availability of modification chips. In the meantime, while GI has maintained that it can and would shut off the magic chips, so far it hasn't chosen to do so.

Sales of the VC II, which were averaging just under 5000 units a month when first released, zoomed to an average of 45,000 units per month after it was shown how easy the unit could be modified.

Many people feel that now that GI has sold over 1.4 million VC II's, the decoder may have reached a market saturation. Estimates place the number of operating satellite systems in the country at about 1.5 million. If these estimates are accurate, and assuming GI's figure of 1 million VC II's sold in the US is also accurate, then market saturation is quite possible.

Speculation has been that GI would continue to take advantage of brisk VC II sales due to its easy defeatability, then once the market was saturated, announce a replacement for the VC II. The replacement could be offered free (or at least at a discount) to anyone owning an unmodified VC II. This would cost GI little. On the other, hand if 80% of the VC II's in the country become obsolete overnight, GI could stand to make another fortune selling new units to owners of modified VC II's.

GI continues to say this won't happen , but they have said that a replacement for the VC II is in the works, and a general recall of the existing VC II is being considered.

"Because we're switching to another type of piracy"

Decoder Module Tracking Proposed

The latest GI quick fix proposal to stop VideoCipher modification is to require local satellite dealers to report on who they sell VideoCiphers to, and keep track of the VC II's as they pass from customer to customer in the resale market. Included in this proposal is a plan to eliminate the delivery of VC II's and IRD modules to manufacturers and distributors, and make them only available through the local dealer.

The details of how a local dealer could track a VC II once it had been sold, or what would happen to the dealer if the decoder were somehow 'lost' or found to be modified is yet to be resolved.

GI says that they are seriously considering Decoder Module Tracking, but it could be up to a year away before the plan is put in place. The chances are quite good, that this plan will end up the same place that most of the other quick fixes for piracy have ended - in the trash can. -

Industry News

Judgement Awarded in Case

A Federal Judge in Miami has granted General Instrument Corp. (GI) and three other firms a judgement and permanent injunction against Shaun Kenny, Bob Cooper Jr., and Network Productions Inc., for activities related to reporting on piracy activities.

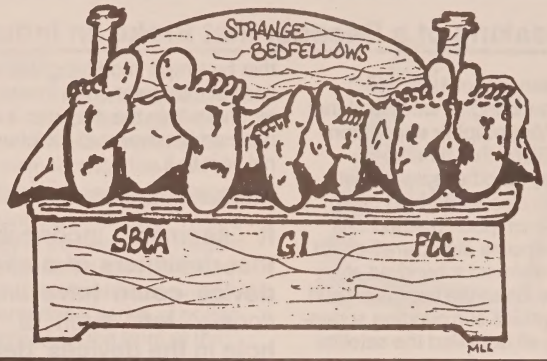
Although the plaintiffs had been seeking as much as Six million dollars, Judge Thomas Scott awarded GI, Showtime and M/A-Com $110,000 in statutory damages, with an additional amount of $20,000 accessed against Shaun Kenny. The judge ruled that the plaintiffs are also entitled to attorney's fees and court costs.

In his ruling, Scott enjoined the defendants from in any way trafficking in devices capable of "intercepting or receiving satellite transmissions or signals carrying pay channel programming that in enable users to descramble such signals without authorization, or from otherwise assisting in unauthorized interception or descrambling of signals carrying any pay programming service."

The judgement in the case stems mostly from Kenny's marketing of the "dealer demo chip" on Boresight News. The chip was designed to allow satellite dealers to show the features of the VC II to their customers. The chip did not provide audio and had portions of the video blocked out with the dealer's name.

Kenny expected the decision, saying, "the plaintiffs were allowed to file 800 pages of allegations in the case, while we were only allowed 10 pages to respond. We have already filed an appeal."

This is a prime example of Justice American style. It's no longer who is right or wrong, it's who has the most money. Justice is expensive. It must be bought and paid for, and in many cases, it is bought and paid for before the case reaches the courts.



FCC Issues Opinion On Piracy

During a Press Conference held in Washington, D.C., Thursday, July 21st, the FCC released the following opinions:

- According to Section 705(a) of the Communications Act and Title 18 U.S. Code Section 2511(1) prohibits the unauthorized interception and use of satellite and other radio communications, even if done by individuals in the privacy of their homes. Violators can be imprisoned.
- Scrambling is intended to limit the reception and use of the programming to legitimate subscribers who pay for these services.
- By Providing a mechanism for obtaining compensation from dish owners, scrambling has in essence created the home dish programming market.
- The SBCA has indicated that controlling theft of satellite programming is a top priority for the (satellite) industry.
- Because theft of signals is increasing, the FCC has recommended that Congress raise the civil and criminal penalties for this misconduct.
- The FCC is now issuing citations or warning letters to several vendors who appear to be marketing technology that assists others in the unauthorized interception and beneficial use of scrambled satellite programming. These citations specifically warn marketers of the legal consequences of their actions and request their cooperation in discontinuing such illegal marketing.
- If the widespread theft of satellite services continues, many programmers are likely to implement more secure and more expensive scrambling techniques.

For anyone wishing more information on how the FCC rach these conclusions, or to make the FCC aware of how you feel about their recent satements, you can reach the FCC at the following phone numbers:

FCC Main Office - 1-202-632-7000

FCC Public Relations Department - 1-202-632-5050

FCC News Media Operations - 202-632-5050 (Sally Lawrence)

FCC Field Operations Bureau Contact: 202-632-6345 (Rick Engelman)

De-Scrambling Notebook

The Breaking of a Decoder that Broke an Industry

Back in January of 1986, HBO began scrambling its satellite signal using the VideoCipher encryption method. Since that time approximately 30 other satellite networks have also scrambled using the same encryption method. Although the home dish owner could still receive almost a hundred stations in the clear, the confusion and misconceptions surrounding scrambling have all but killed the satellite industry.

Within a few weeks after the introduction of scrambling, the VideoCipher II (VC II) decoder was made available to the public as a way to legally subscribe to and watch scrambled channels. With a retail price of over $400.00, and public resentment toward the entire issue of scrambling, sales of the decoder were almost non-existent.

But, nine months after the scrambling began, products began to circulate that could be used to modify the VC II so that it would descramble all scrambled channels, regardless of whether the consumer subscribed to the channels or not. As word of these devices spread, sales of the VC II took off.

In fact, more than six times as many VC II's were sold in the last three months of 1986, than in the previous nine months (with most of the sales being directly attributable to the breaking of the decoder).

The VC II Is Broken

It had been claimed over and over by the designers and manufacturers of the VC II, that the device was unbreakable, that no one would ever be able to defeat its security. However, more and more hard evidenced surfaced that proved beyond a doubt the decoder indeed could be broken.

The VC II decoder is basically a computer, with a number of computer chips that control the operation of the device. It was found, that by simply modifying one or two lines of computer code in a six dollar chip within the decoder, it would descramble every videocipher signal sent to it.

It seemed inconceivable that designers of a security device could have *unintentionally* left such a large hole in the devices' defense system.

The ease in which the VC II could be modified surprised almost everyone. It seemed inconceivable that designers of a security device could have unintentionally left such a large hole in the devices' defense system. *(It has been speculated that M/A-Com employees who had assisted in the development of the decoder were also instrumental in creating products to break it. This speculation has been fueled by the leakage of high level password codes that would have been virtually impossible to break without inside help).*

Musketeers, Clones & Wizards

The modifications that cause the VC II to decode everything are accomplished by replacing a single 27-128 EPROM chip with just 14 of its 15,000 bytes of code altered. (*More sophisticated chips require thousands of bytes of code changes or complete re-writes).*

There are a variety of magic chips on the market today, from as many as 16,000 different sources. The different chips fall into three basic categories of operation. They are:

The Clone - This chip duplicates the unique ID and other important information from a 'master' chip. There is no limit to the number of clones that can be made from a master. Whatever the Master is subscribed to, the clone gets free.

The Musketeer Chip - This chip requires at least one service be paid for, but after one service is authorized, all the remaining services come in free. The Musketeer chip retains its original ID and key codes.

The Wizard - This chip requires neither an ID nor any services to be subscribed to. It relies on the user to enter a series of codes through the front panel of the VC II that will authorize all the desired services. This keypad entry must be repeated every thirty days, as the monthly codes in the signal are updated.

Each of the three types of chips have distinct advantageous and disadvantages. As a result, chip designers have begun incorporating the best features of each type into one *super chip*. The *super chips* go by trade names such as the Armadillo, the Alligator, and the Tri-Fecta. They can be toggled from one technology to another by simply pressing keys on the front panel of the VC II. The Alligator chip, for example, includes two clones, a wizard, and Three Musketeer Logic all packed into a single chip. The user can select which technology he wishes to to operate, and if one technology should be shut-off, he can toggle to another. This chip is said to be impervious to shut-down.

Chip Prices

The chip business is a very competitive market, and prices have dropped from $1200.00 for the earliest chips to around $300.00 for current batch of super chips. Older chips can be found in the $100.00 to $200.00 price range. With an estimated 16,000 people selling chips in the United States today, the prices remain competitive, and new products appear on the market with regularity.

Note: This ariticle provided for informational purposes only. The publisher does not condone the use of illegal products.

Descrambling Notebook

A Closer Look at the Different Chips . . .

This article is presented soley for informational purposes only. Some products described in this article might be illegal to use or own in some areas that this newsletter is distributed. The publisher of this newsletter does not condone nor encourage anyone to use products in an illegal manner.

Anyone who begins an investigation of the products offered by the satellite underground is sure to be amazed by the number and variation of the products available to defeat the VideoCipher decoder.

While most chip products that are available rely on the three basic technologies discussed on the previous page (Clone, Musketeer, Wizard), it is the manner in which these approaches are used that make the chips different.

Lets take a look at the major chip products:

Testrons Protec Test Device - Testrons Protec device, which is marketed as a test and service device, is unique in several ways. First, is the physical appearance of the product. The Protec device consists of a printed circuit board about the size of a Domino, having two sockets, a PAL device, and other small components.

The product is designed so that the service person can toggle between a stock U-30 chip, and the Testron supplied test chip. When installed, the Protec device will allow the service person to test out each scrambled service on the VC II. The Protec Device appears to use a combination of Clone and Musketeer technology to achieve its fast lock and descramble of encrypted services. The Testron product does not require any entry of monthly codes, nor the subscription to any channels.

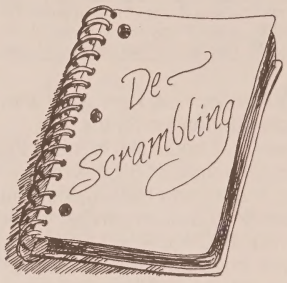
The Wizard Chip (available from many sources). The Wizard Chip is designed so that no ID nor seed keys are needed to cause the VC II to descramble the channels. The Wizard runs on the premise that the user of the device can supply the codes needed to descramble, by entering them through the front panel of the VC II.

The obvious advantage of Wizard technology is that any VC II, regardless of its condition, can be forced to descramble all services, simply by hand entering a series of codes via the keypad on the front of the decoder.

The disadvantage of the system is that the key codes have to be re-entered each time the month code in the VC II data stream changes. This means that the end user must obtain and enter up to 64 pieces of data each month. While entering the data is not very hard, obtaining the right codes can be.

Wizard Calculator - the problem with Wizard technology is that it is sometimes difficult to obtain the correct codes needed to activate the system. The Wizard Calculator was developed to solve this problem. This chip can calculate the data the Wizard needs to keep operating. As long as you know the current two digit month code, you can calculate the rest. You still have to enter the calculated codes into the VC II with the Wizard, but at least there is a way to get them.

The Chameleon (also known as the Armadillo, the Alligator, the Three in One, and the Convertible) - This type of chip combines the ease of a clone with the unique features of the Wizard. These three way chips use the information obtained in clone mode to pass to the Wizard. When Wizard mode is activated it can access to the key codes collected by the clone (unless the clone has been turned off). If the 1st clone and 2nd clone have both been disabled, then the Wizard section of the chip can be activated using keyboard entry.



The three way or combo chips are recent introductions to the market, and are going through a series of updates to make the chips easier to use, and more secure against future countermeasesures. There is very complex software programming in the three way chips, and some people feel that this programming complexity may cause future problems.

Canadian Express System - this newcomer from the innovative Blues Brothers is one of the first all-in-one Musketeer chips for the 018-019 series of VideoCiphers. The Canadian Express System is capable of cloning a VC II to itself. Once this has been accomplished, and at least one service has been subscribed to, the Musketeer tiering technology within the chip, causes the VC II to descramble the remaining services.

Keys-R-Us - this chip was developed to give individuals the ability to read the unique seed keys with their early series VC II. The seed keys within the VC II are a vital element in the operation of the decoder, and loss of the keys (due to battery failure), can render the device brain dead. Using the Keys-R-Us allows a VC II owner to archive his keys for future reference. The Keys extracted with this chip can also be used for cloning.

More Next Month . . .

Technical Tips from W T S

These technical tips are being supplied by Howard Walker, of Walker Tecnical Services. Mr. Walker has been gracious enough to allow us to benifit from his years of experience chasing electrons and repairing VC II's. (Note: These tips are provided for educational information for legal repair work only. Neither Mr. Walker nor the publisher of the Blank Box Newsletter condones the use of this information for illegal purposes.)

Well folks, here I am again with more information for the VCII tinkerer. I would like to make this a regular feature (if Bill has the room and the readers have an interest). Specific questions can be handled on our TECH/ ORDER LINE. Please try to limit your calls for technical help to the 5 to 9 p.m. EST frame (west coast take note... don't call at 9 p.m. your time 'cause its' midnight here). Now down to business.

VC II's and the Heat

It seems that many VCII's are having heat related problems. This can be alleviated, to a great extent, by removing epoxy from the top of and around U19 and U7. However, beware of the fact that if you are using a metallic scraping tool that you will most likely loose your ID# and seed keys when attempting epoxy removal from U7. This will happen because of a momentary battery short when scraping the pins.

Orange Stick

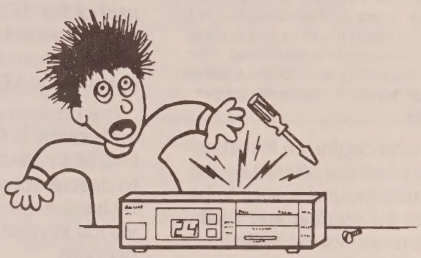
If anyone is interested, I am having great success with a wooden scraper called and 'orange stick'. This is made from, I am told, orange wood. It is very sturdy and quite handy to use. If you would like to obtain information on this, please call.

Wizard users Take Note

A note for the WIZARD users...if you are experiencing problems with your WIZARD run chip, you may need a faster chip. Look at the chip speed marked on the device. A chip marked 27128-3 is a 300 nanosecond access speed. You probably need to reload your RUN chip into a 27128-2.

As more VCII's enter the data stream, G.I. has to increase the speed of the data stream to address more units. A slower speed chip will cause problems.

The WIZARD data or loader or ram chip (it's called several names, depending who sold it to you) May need to be left in the board longer than usual to complete a correct data load. This is also related to the increase in the speed of the data stream.



VC II video problems.

When switching from a scrambled signal to an unscrambled signal does your VCII think it's still on a scrambled service??? If so, U24 has probably bit the big one. Try replacing it.

Flashing Lights . . .

If your VC II signal detect light briefly flashes when powered up on a VC II service, but won't come back on, check U26 pin 10 for composite video. If there is no signal, then U26 is probably bad. If U26, pin 10 looks good then check for a constant reset signal at U29, pin 12. If the reset signal is present, look at pin14. If no reset is present, then U29 is bad. A simulated reset can be created by momentarily shorting pins 14 and 13 of U29. If the board comes up, then U29 is definitely bad.

Socket Problems

Seems to be a lot of socket problems lately. Most individuals prefer to "piggy back" a socket on the existing U30 chip. This is fine, if it is done right. The correct way is as follows:

1. Remove the epoxy from the chip edge to about half way down to the board.

2. On the existing U30, solder a 1K resistor from pin 20 to pin 28.

3. Piggy back your socket, making sure all solder connections are good. Bend pin 20 of the piggy back socket out slightly from the existing chip. Solder a 1K resistor from the bent out pin of the socket to pin 14 of the socket.

What we have done is electrically disabled the stock U30 and enabled the device which will be placed in the piggy backed socket.

Till next we meet..... Happy Decoding

Howard Walker

Need Technical Help?

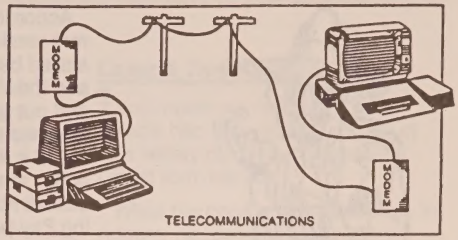
For technical help on any problem relating to TVRO, give Walker Technical Services a call. They enjoy talking to people. Advice is free. The Tech Line is open for advice (or orders) from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. EST Monday thru Friday.

Correction

Last month we ran a drawing titled, "Oak Video an a VC II". This drawing was reprinted from Video Tec News. We have learned that the drawing does not work, and may cook your VC II, so don't try it. If you still have last month's issue laying around, go find it and write "don't try" on the drawing. We apologize for the error.

Product Reviews and Blues

LET'S GO TO THE CATHOUSE!!!



WHERE IN-THE-KNOW DISH OWNERS GO

By Dr. Richard E. Skinner, III

The Cathouse??? Is that a place outside Las Vegas??? No, this Cathouse is in Cincinnati, Ohio and its an online computer information center, open to anyone with a computer and a modem. The cathouse Bulletin Board System is in information base for the satellite owner, and offers many unique features including one to one conversations with the likes of Bob Wizard, Lee hadlock, and Bill Myers.

Logging on to the Cathouse BBS is somewhat like walking into a electronic library, where you can find many sections covering many different and satellite related topics. You can spend your time just browsing through the subjects, or head directly to the section that you want or need. And like most libraries, you can check out (download) information, or check in- (upload) files.

But the cathouse is more than just a library; it is also an electronic mail system, where you can leave messages to the other members, read general messages, and requesting information. The Cathouse also has specialists on hand that will answer your questions and respond to your comments. Where else can you talk to Bob Wizard, ask technical advice of "Dr" Lee Hadlock, or leave late breaking news stories for The Blank Box Newsletter? You can on the Cathouse!

You may be wondering what it costs to use the Cathouse. The basic fee is $25.95 per year (or for some special added features $50.95 per year). The cost of the phone call is the only other expense (assuming you already own a computer and a modem).

Is it worth the $25.95 per year to become a member of the Cathouse? It has been for me. Just the tehnical advice that "Dr." Lee Hadlock provided that got my VC II up and running was well worth the cost. Other benifits include knowing what's really going on in the satellite industry, hearing about chip developments and problems from the horse's mouth (so to speak), and just reading the messages from other members.

The operator of the Cathouse BBS does a good job of checking out rumors, keeping members informed of Rip-offs and frauds, and keeping the BBS in good working order.

The cathouse BBS is a product of the communications revolution of the 80's that has trickled down to the consumer. This truly amazing service is available today by calling 1-513-528-0707. Set your computer to 300/1200 baud, parity none, 8 data bits, 1 stop bits and give them a call.

The Pirate Video Series Adds Volume 4

The Pirate Video series of video tapes documenting the products, techniques and personalities of the satellite underground, now includes Volume 4.

Previous volumes of this "Pirates View of the Satellite Underground" have shown most of the chip products in action (including the Wizard, Testron's Protec Device, the Chameleon & the Armadillo were shown in Volume III).

The Pirate Video series is the only continuing documentation of the advances in the satellite underground. For example, Volume II featured the Keyr-R-Us key extractor as demonstrated by its developer, where Volume III showed the latest in 018 key extraction devices created by the Parasite group.

Volume 4 shows the latest advances in Key Extraction featuring the latest devices from Testron and others. Volume 4 will also feature a direct comparison of the new super chips, including the latest from the Blues Brothers.

The Pirate Video documentary series has always been controversial which is understandable when you see actual footage of how easy it is to remove epoxy and install chips. Each tape in the series is a full two hours long, and covers the very latest in the satellite underground.

The two hour VHS video documentary sells for $29.95 each, and are available from Resort Publishing (1-501-321-1845).

Notes From The Satellite Underground

Canadian Express System Debuts

No, it's not a new credit card, but it is the latest VC II modification product from The Blues Brothers (the Canadian group that has been responsible for many of the major breakthroughs in VC technology).

The Canadian Express System from the Blues Brothers combines the advantages of cloning and wizard technology into something very similar to the original Three Musketeer system. The system allows you to extract and load 018 keys, save the original keys in a protected area within the box (for later recovery if needed), write new U-7 information, and restore box to stock condition.

The basic premise of the Canadian Express System is that a box can be cloned to itself, and then by subscribing to just one service, the rest come in free. The advantages to this system include: (1) no reliance on unknown clone number, (2) no extensive entry of keypad information (3) ability to retain original ID.

It looks like the Blues Brothers have done it again.

Giant Killer Alive & Well

Last month we reported on a device called the Giant Killer (also known as the Alf 3000). Since that report, we have had eye witness accounts of the device in operation.

According to our source, the current version of th Giant Killer is installed between the satellite receiver and the VC II, using the 70mhz in and out ports. The version we saw also had some jumpers attached inside the VC II, but no chip modifications. It performed flawlessly, descrambling all channels, including Pay-per-Views.

The Giant Killer uses a technique that cause the VC II to think that every scrambled service is in open key mode. Open Key mode causes the VCII to de-scramble immediately.

The device we saw had been shipped from HIckory, North Carolina, (which is home of GI's VC II plant). The device is being marketed for $500.00. *(We will provide additional information on this product as it becomes available).*

V.C. Hacker Goes to Court

First the good news. No criminal charges have been filed against VC Hacker for his alleged involvement in the modification of over 200 Videociphers at the request of Bob Bottorff (under the direction of GI's Terry Luddy), during an undercover sting operation conducted by Sahlen and Associates Private Investigation agency.

Now the bad news. Hacker has been named in a civil lawsuit brought by Cable Home Communications (a division of GI). The lawsuit claims that when Hacker modified the VC II's, he violated the copyright or patent of the device. Cable Home Communications is seeking to recover damages for copyright infringement.

As part of the suit, an emergency restraining order was issued to prevent the Hacker organization from doing any business until a scheduled July 28th court hearing.

(Justice in this country is expensive, and it is doubted that the V.C. Hacker organization can outspend the likes of Cable Home Communication and GI in the buying of justice - American style. Regardless of V.C. Hacker's guilt or innocence, GI can't afford to let him win.)

What Counter Measures?

Another month has gone by, and still GI has not chosen to put into effect any counter measures to knock down any of the estimated one million modified decoders on the market.

Statements from GI speak of *'phasing out'* the older 010 units which should have the effect of *'corking the bottle'* on clones. Surely GI realizes that every time they intentionally kill a VC II, they are creating irate customers and enemies. A customer with a turned-off box has little alternative but to have it modified.

There are over one million modified VC II's out there, and GI's talk about 'putting the cork in the bottle' is too little too late.

GI Axes the Competition

Now that both Tee-Com and Echosphere both have had their VC II privileges pulled, we wonder if any company other than GI will be allowed to sell VC II's or IRD's.

Is it merely coincidence that GI pulled VideoCipher privileges from its largest two competitors?

We also wonder if it is more than just a coincidence that GI took action against the two largest distributors of satellite equipment in the U.S. and Canada. It is no secret that GI has committed publicly to try to capture the lions share of the satellite equipment market.

Notes From the Satellite Underground

Kenny Muzzled by Court

Judge Thomas Scott of the U.S. District Court, has decided that Boresight News Host Shaun Kenny's claim of first amendment protection are "without merit and ludicrous".

The first amendment of the U.S. Constitution includes the following statement: "*Congress shall make* no law abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press . . "

Apparently in this case, the judge felt that telling the truth was a punishable offence, and the right to speak the truth was not protected by the U.S. Constition.

Kenny was charged with reporting the activity of the satellite underground during his news show. As a result of the finding by the court, satellite viewers will no longer have the opportunity to hear or view Kenny or his weekly news show Boresight'

While we may not have always agreed with Kenny's comments on Boresight, we felt the U.S. Constitution gave him the right to speak his mind. The fact that Kenny can be forced off the air and into bankruptcy simply because he reported the truth seems alarmingly similar to the closing of newspapers and TV stations in communist countries.

Apparently, the U.S. Constitution only applies to those people who can afford to defend themselves in court.

Version 3.1 Software No Problem for Chippers

Some chippers had expressed concerned that the latest release of software used in the VC II might cause problems for their products. However, now that VC II's with 3.10 have reached the field, chippers have found that the changes in the software has no effect on most modification products.

Changes in the timing sequences of the 3.10 boxes have caused some 018 -019 key readers to malfunction, but most companies with these products have resolved the problem.

There had been some concern that the epoxy used in the newer 019 boards would be more difficult to remove, and might even contain glass beads that would make it hard to cut, but these fears were also unwarranted.

Reports from the field indicate that the epoxy in the 019 boards is actually easier to remove than the epoxy on earlier units.

HBO's Crimson Project

We have received information about a top secret project HBO has been working on, code named the Crimson Project. According to informed sources, HBO's Crimson Project is an effort by the programmer to set up its own DBS programming network, to be operational by late 1989.

Currently, satellite systems capable of receiving test programming for the Crimson project are being installed in the homes and offices of the executives of networks who are being courted to be a part of the Crimson programming package.

Our source tells us that while the programming from the Crimson project will be scrambled, it definitely will not use the VC II due to problems with its lack of security.

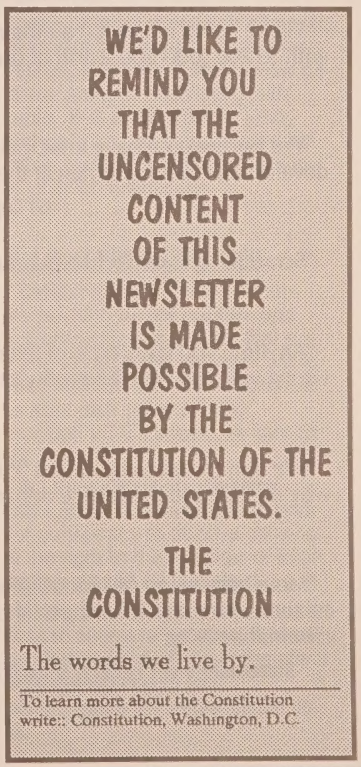
Cease & Desist Update

Last month we reported that a *poodle* had been mailed a copy of GI's widely circulated Cease and Desist form letter.

While the poodle maintains he is innocent, his record in not spotless (he has been responsible for doing naughties on the carpet). The poodle has also been known to hang around a 'ruff' crowd and has, on occasion, been prone to chase cars.

The extent of the poodle's involvement in VideoCipher modification is not yet fully known, but according to GI's Cease and Desist letter, "information concerning the matter has been turned over to the FBI".

The poodle insists that GI is 'barking up the wrong tree'. *We will keep you updated on this situation.*



In Other Words . . .

Quotes Worth Repeating

A lot has happened in the last two and half years since scrambling first became a part of the satellite viewing reality. A lot people said of lot of things that, looking back, may be relevant to todays situation. Here are a few quotes you may remember . . .

"The VideoCipher is a very sophisticated system, tamper proof and undefeatable."

Doug Lindquist - M/A-Com's Video Marketing Director - March 1986.

"There are some people out there saying the VC II is broken. We have not seen any positive evidence that it is or ever will be broken. Anyone who claims to have broken the VideoCipher is either lying or perpetrating fraud."

Doug Lindquist - M/A-Com's Video Marketing Director - August, 1986.

"The Magic Chips do work. We can't deny that or we'd lose all credibility. We know there are people out there replacing chips and authorizing one service and getting other services free. We know how they are doing it - and we know how to stop them from doing it. We are deciding what combination of technical and legal action to take. It may be more important to hang somebody in the public square as an example."

- Doug Lindquist, M/A-Com's Video Marketing Director - December 1986.

"We're going to turn off all the modified VC II's. Consumers who buy these things are going to end up with $1200 to $1500 worth of useless equipment."

- Doug Lindquist, M/A-Com's Video Marketing Director - January, 1987.

"We never could have anticipated that the VideoCipher Hackers would become so sophisticated in developing methods to defeat the VC II".

GI Engineer explaining why 800,000 Pirate decoders can't be shut off - June, 1988.

"Scrambling is really like building a better mousetrap: All you get are better educated mouse."

- David Leibowitz, a Washington Copyright Attorney.

"Anytime you have 80% of the marketplace stealing services, it pretty well shows that something is wrong with the way the product is delivered."

-U.S. Congressmen Billy Tauzin (D-La.) June, 1988.

"We don't want to be called 'Pirates'. We don't want to be forced to steal signals. I don't understand why the FBI and the Justice department are involved. All we want to do is watch TV."

- Shaun Kenny, Boresight News Host, April 1988.

"Mere possession of VideoCipher equipment is sufficient evidence for the issuing of a search and seizure warrant as it has been shown that the VideoCipher decoder has been, in the past, used in criminal activity."

Statement from Federal Search & Seizure warrant Issued by U.S Federal Judge Charles Vaccaro - April 1988.

Closing Comments . . .

"Section 705(a) prohibits the unauthorized interception of TV and Radio by individuals in the privacy of their homes. Such misconduct is punishable by imprisonment"

FCC, July 21, 1988

Back when TV was first getting started in this country, Americans were encouraged to set up antenna systems to pick up the signals from remote broadcast towers. Over the past 30 years, the vast majority of American homes have acquired multiple TV sets and outdoor UHF and VHF antennas to pick up a wide variety of signals.

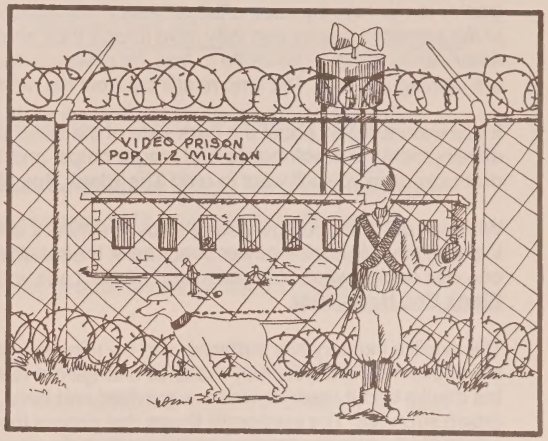
Most of us have childhood memories of our dads out on the roof moving the antenna, while we shouted "good" or "bad" out a window as he tried to tune in a remote signal.

In the good old days of free TV, it seemed that hundreds of companies were selling products that promised to give us better reception and better pictures on our TV's. And, America bought. We bought TV's, antennas, amplifiers, boosters, rabbit ears, the works. And America was the better for it.

The Death of Free TV

Cable systems began stringing coaxial cables throughout American cities that would bring 10 or 20 or more channels into the consumer's home without the bother of an outdoor antenna. Although the consumer had little choice of the channels that the cable provided, the quality was better than most could get on their own, so cable was welcomed everywhere it went.

As cable spread, Americans hooked up, and abandoned their UHF and VHF antennas. Cable was seen as the ultimate in TV. It was great, and didn't cost much (at first).



Cable kept growing, and it wasn't long before almost 50% of the country was wired. In the meantime, to insure that cable would continue to grow at its rapid pace, cable interests lobbied Congress to make it illegal for the average citizen to use available technology to receive off the air signals.

Cable also began buying up all the networks that were being offered on cable, and made these unavailable to anyone except cable subscribers. Additionally cable was able to convince Congress to total de-regulate the cable business, while at the same time they influenced the FCC to help kill the satellite industry, and even allowed the scrambling of PBS networks.

Video Prisoners

As a result of Cable's growth and the demise of local over the air stations, most Americans have become prisoners of their local cable system. If they choose to watch the news, weather, sports, or any form of televised entertainment, they must pay cable to do so, and they can only watch what cable chooses to show them.

Sure, if a consumer gets tired or bored of a program, he can change the channel, but he **can't** change the cable. Consumers are still limited to what the cable offers. And if cable only offers programming that it either owns or controls, the consumer is likely to see only one viewpoint on any issue (that of the cable's owners or operators).

If the consumer want an alternate viewpoint, technology does offer TVRO owners the ability to view different stations, unaffiliated with cable. But, a homeowner who wishes not to be programmed by cable, is faced with the possibility of violation federal law.

The Real Video Criminals

Certain groups in this country are pushing for the capture and punishment of individuals that are trying to break the bonds of cable. They feel that the one million plus satellite dish owners using modified VC II's should be sent to jail.

We think different. We think cable should be investigated and the conspiracy to deprive citizens of the right to the free flow of information should be punished.

Giving up the right to have access to alternate sources of news and information will have the effect of removing one of the cornerstones of freedom from us all.

Magic Chips, Black Boxes & Video Piracy

"Magic Computer Chips and home-made Black Boxes are some of the tools of the video pirate, whose goal is to right the injustice of satellite signal scrambling. The corporate hoodlums have gained control of the satellite industry and they have forced their scrambling monopoly on three million unwilling American families. The battle to free the airwaves has been forced underground but high tech pirates are gaining ground. The empire still controls the media, and we must struggle to spread the truth."

If you want to know about the **dark side** of the satellite industry, if you want to know about the latest developments in **black boxes** and **magic chips**, and if you want to see ads by companies selling these products, then you will want to read **The Blank Box Newsletter**.

While we don't encourage video **Piracy,** we think it is important for you to know about it, and we present it in a way that scares the power structure of the satellite industry. If you're **sick and tired** of having someone else decide what information and product ads you shouldn't see, then its time for you to read **The Blank Box Newsletter**.

The satellite industry has **suffered**, and we think you should know why. Yes, they have tried to force us out of business and yes, they made us change our name, but thanks to our readers, we have survived and have grown stronger. The **corporate thugs** that control the satellite industry have tried to hide the truth, but we have exposed them for what they are. For the whole story, read **The Blank Box Newsletter.**

A one year subscription to **The Blank Box Newsletter** costs $24.95, and you may order by simply calling 1-501-321-1845. Visa, MasterCard, Checks & COD accepted.

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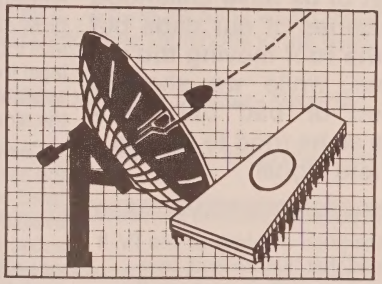

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Attention readers!!

Before you look at any of the ads in this newsletter, please read this.

Almost any product sold in America today can be used for illegal purposes. Whether it be a simple ball point pen (used to write a ransom note or write hot checks), a plastic coke bottle (used as a disposable silencer for a handgun), or a base ball bat (use to knock a little sense into someone), most products can be used for illegal purposes in the wrong hands.

With this in mind, it is unreasonable to require manufacturers and advertisers to somehow monitor and be responsible for how their products might ultimately be used in adult consumer hands. If this were the case, no manufacturer would be able to sell anything in this country (whether it be automobiles, computers or soldering irons), without fear of criminal prosecution if the device were somehow used in the commission of a crime.

There is no doubt that some products advertised in this newsletter (as well as most products advertised anywhere), could possibly be used in an illegal manner. While we certainly can not and do not condone the use of any product to commit a crime, we can not monitor how a product might ultimately be used by a consumer.

The consumer is responsible for his actions. It is always up to you to abide by the law.

If you buy a product to view pay satellite signals, it is your responsibility to contact the programmer and pay him for the services you view. You may wish to keep a log of all services that you view, and write each programmer a check at the end of each month.

If you ask why it would be lawful to sell something that could be used in an illegal manner, then consider that most automobiles sold in this country can easily exceed double the maximum federal speed limit. If you drive your car over the speed limit and get a ticket, it is you, not the automobile manufacturer who is guilty and must pay the penalty.

You, the consumer are responsible for your actions.

Please keep this in mind while you are reading the ads in this, and other publications.

Un-Classified Ads

Important Notice: Some products mentioned, reviewed or advertised in this publication may not be legal to own or operate in all areas that this newsletter is distributed. It is up to the buyer and seller to determine the legality of any sale. Buyers are advised to exercise extreme caution when doing business with any company requiring payment in cash. We strongly urge consumers to use credit cards for mail order purchases whenever possible., as recovery of these funds is possible in the event of problems. We ask that consumers report any problems with our advertisers to us, so we may make attempts to resolve the matter. The Publisher does not endorse, encourage or condone the violation of any federal, state or local law.

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The Blank Box Newsletter is a publication of national and international distribution. There may be products for which, sale, possession or interstate transportation may be restricted, prohibited or subject to special licensing requirements in your state. Purchasers should consult the local law enforcement authorities in their area.

THE CAT HOUSE - Computer bulletin board for the satellite dish owners. 300/1200/2400 baud calls 1-513-528-0707. 300 baud callers can access the bbs from 9p.m.-6a.m. EST only. Or write to: Seed City Engineering, 4166 Mclean Dr. Cincinnati, OH 45255.

Computer Eyes - A video capture board for computer owners. Now you can capture video images, from VCR's, Video Cameras, etc., and save them on your computer. Images can be used in databases, desk top publishing, advertising and many other applications. Can be used with any IBM compatible computer. Complete system, new in box - $200.00. 1-501-321-1845, ask for Bill.

For Sale: 2 Gould DXR 900, $60.00 each. 1 Amplica R-10A with Downconverter and LNA $50.00. 1 Sat-Tec R-5000 SP with downconverter $35.00. 1-501-963-3251..

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VIDEO SYNC GENERATOR - In good condition $250 1-601-354-4840 .

FOR SALE: one new and unmodified 018 series VC II. Original box, manual, and all cables included for $360.00. D. Sivert, P.O. Box 51, Fort Branch, IN 47648.

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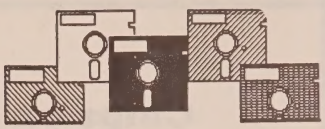

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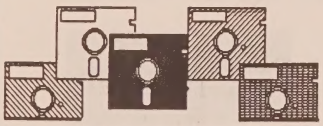

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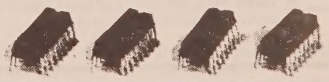

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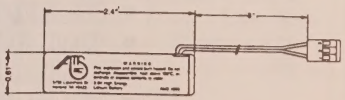

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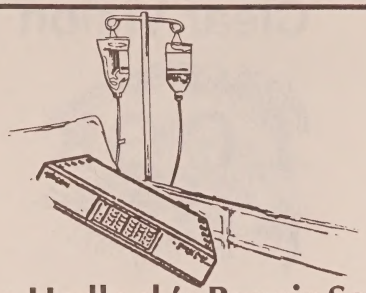

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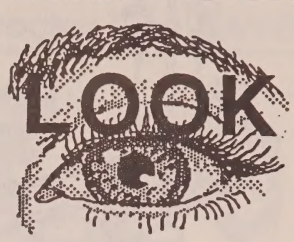

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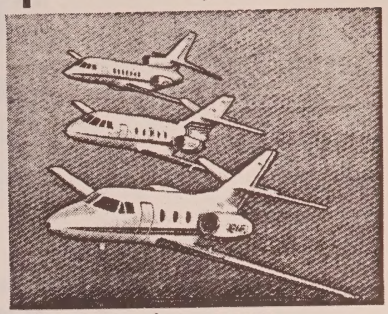

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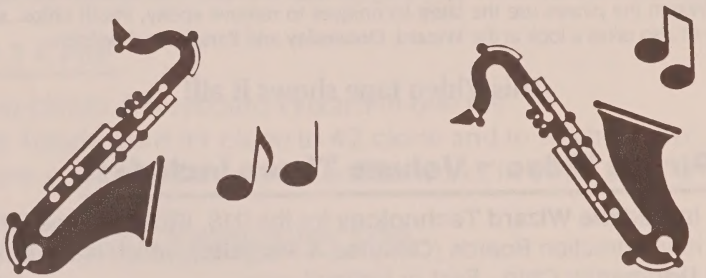

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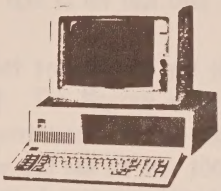

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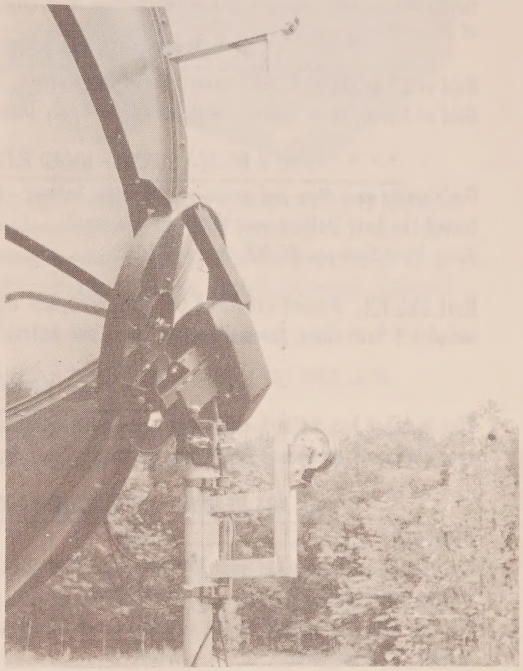
Remember the last time you installed a Dish . . . . . Maybe you would rather forget how difficult it was putting it up on the pole (especially if the top of the pole was 15 to 20 feet from ground level). How many people did it take to lift that Dish . . . 2 . . . 3 . . . 4 . . . . . More ? ? ? ? ?

We have solved that problem (and you thought we only fixed VC II's). The Magnum crane is 5 1/2 feet in length, constructed of 3/16 inch square stock T-6 aluminum and can lift over 1000 lbs. It comes complete with boom arm cable rollers, 30 feet of 2000 lb. test aircraft quality stranded steel cable, a steel hook with wire clamp, 2 ratchet strap mounts and a 1500 lb. rated reversable winch.



The Magnum Crane's unique standoff/boom construction allows it to align the polar mount of the dish directly over the mount pipe. It can also be used for raising residential TV Tower sections or putting up that 20 foot pipe section on the side of a building for a satellite dish. The ratchet straps, that hold the crane in place, adjust to accomodate any type mount up to 2 feet in diameter.

The Magnum Crane is available assembled for $389.00, or in kit form with all parts and instructions for $339.00. It comes with a money back guarantee. Try it for 10 days. If you are not completely satisfied with it's performance, if it doesn't prove itself to be a great time and labor saver, return it to us, in undamaged condition, for a refund. (This guarantee does not apply to the kit form version). The Magnum Crane is UPS Shippable!!

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VC II OWNERS AND SATELLITE DEALERS!

Keys-R-Us Generic Key Reader/Writer $50.00
RAM Repair Chip (Erases U20 Completely) $30.00

*** * * * SPECIAL * * * * SPECIAL * * * * SPECIAL * * * ***

Experimentors Software Package. 3 Disks With Over 50 Files. Complete Wizard Plus (includes Calculator), Doomsday File, Version 2.4 & 3.0 Loader And Run Files For 018 Units, Keymaster, Omni 1,2,3 Files, Erase and Modify U7 for 010 and 018 Units, Ram Repair Files, U7 Writers For 010, Keys-R-Us, Various 010 & 018 Loaders, Armadillo & Much, Much More. Complete 3 Disk Set With Documentation Of Most Files. Some Are Self Explanatory. (IBM Compatible Format Only). -- $99.00
Note: These files are for experimentation and education only.. User assumes responsibility for legal use of this software.

*** * * * * WE INSTALL GOLD OR SILVER PLATED MACHINE PIN SOCKETS. * * * * ***

Gold or Silver Plated Sockets Installed in Epoxy Units $75.00
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Don't waste your time and money on a Lithium battery. NICAD charges from the VC II Lithium Doesn't. Install the Last Battery your VC II will ever need $30.00
Doing More than one VC II? Extra NICADS $12.00

Heat Sink Kit. Prevent failure of U7, U19, U24, and U5. Low Profile Heat sink sticks to the top of the chips. Kit includes 4 heat sinks, thermal bonding epoxy and instructions $20.00

*** * * * * EXTENDER CABLE * * * * ***

Plug in board has 24 inch cable with connectors installed. Module sits outside the main chassis. Unit runs cooler. Less chance of component failure due to heat. Great for adjustments, probing with scope or whatever..... $55.00

*** * * * * WE ARE READING AND ARCHIVING KEYS FOR 010X AND 018X (019X) BOARDS * * * * ***

010X Units ..... $35.00 018X (019X) $99.00
We Provide a hard copy of your ID* and Seed Keys. For further experimentation, purchase our Experimenters Delight Software Pack.
We have 018 Key extractors for sale in kit and assembled form. Parts are plainly labled and socketed. Best buy around. Call for Info.

*** * * * * WE FIX BUSTED VC II'S * * * * ***

We repair videocipher units in almost any condition. Basic bench charge is $25.00. Average repair cost is $75 - $100. We also buy units for parts and sell parts. Need Something??? Call Us. We have many parts in stock. Call for current prices. 100% Testing of All IC's Before Shipment.

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For technical assistance, call between 5 and 9 PM EST Monday thru Friday.

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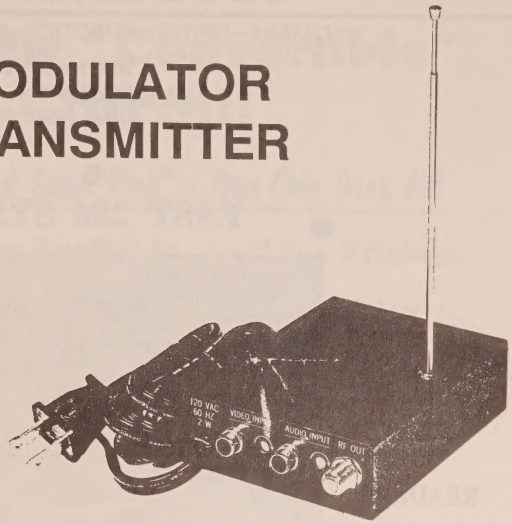
UHF MODULATOR AND TRANSMITTER



Features:

- Converts audio/video output from video cameras, VCRs, video discs, and satellite receivers, etc., to UHF channel for viewing on multiple TV sets without running cable. The UHF signal is transmitted by the UHF rod antenna of this unit and all the TV sets within the household can receive the video program clearly by just tuning to the right UHF channel.
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- UHF output channel is adjustable: preset at channel 19 in factory, but user can adjust the output channel between CH14 -Ch26 if desired.
- Includes detachable antenna.

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1	**Latest 3.0 Technology. It will run in any board 010 or 018. Allows you to clone your own blue masters to any blue or purple label VC II. Contains the latest technology and works with all current IRD's.**
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All Above Software Suppled On PC Compatible Disks which include documentation and instruction files.

Current technology is running and gets PPV. If the above products prove defective, you will receive free upgrades for 1 year at no charge! Nominal charge for upgades after 1 year. Modem support availablel at 300 or 1200 baud.

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EPROMS made from your files $12.50 each in quantities of 10 (includes the 27-128 EPROMS)
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Other software, services, and 018X keypullers available. Call for Information.

Items shipped immediately with cashiers check, money order or C.O.D., personal checks allow 10 days to clear. Add $12.00 for UPS Blue shipping. Add $17.00 for UPS Next Day Air. Add $3.75 for C.O.D.

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These products sold only for educational purposes and testing of VC II and may be illegal in the U.S.A.

ALL THE SOFTWARE YOU NEED FOR THE VC-II "TO PUT YOU IN TOTAL CONTROL IN THE VC-II INDUSTRY"

PAK 1

From the 2000 - 2100 A0181 and Higher Plus IRDS are A0181 and IS NOT a clone and will not alter or change your original address numbers. No ID number or subscriptions to make it work. You also get the (PAY-PER-VIEW) channels and you have your Lock Out from G-XXX on all 2100-2000 Units. It will update each month automatically, plus it will work in the 2000, with ID Numbers 0100-0103 Units.

We will send you 5 Chips plus 1 Disk DOS or IBM Clone Compatible with all the software you need to make any VC-II work.

1 Master Chip for the 2100 A0181, IRD, 2000 Units (It will not have to be updated each month.)

1 RUN Chip for the 2100 A0181, IRDS, and 2000 Units.

1 Generic (keys-or-us) — Repair Chip for address numbers 0100-0106 Units.

1 4MT Chip for address numbers 0100-0106 and IRDS.

1 4MT Chip for address numbers 0100-0106 and IRDS that you clone.

1 DOS or IBM Compatible Disk with all the software for all the chips.

1 Schematic for the VC-II, Manual for (key-or-us) Repair Chip, Complete Manual on Installation, Epoxy Removal, Helpful Hint, Trouble Shooting.

PAK 2

The Chip that people call the DOOMSDAY Chip, with three programs in one. If one technology fails, simply toggle to the next backup program.

Make as many copies as you want.

1. Display "View" and "Next Program" without VC Remote.
2. Can be either Clone or Keyless Wizard System.
3. Store Lock Keys can be entered for Cable-Only Mode.
4. Will not take bad authorizations from data stream.
5. Displays real unit ID which is on back of cage.
6. Clone Keys are Individually Encrypted in Each Box.
7. Doesn't destroy original unit keys! Box can be restored to original condition.
8. Includes Working Key Builder Program.
9. Back Up Keys and Memory.

It updates in position #1 by itself, in position #3 it works like a Wizard. And also works as a Key System so you aren't required to continually enter Key Codes each month.

We will send you 3 Chips and IBM Disk:
1 Master
1 Run 0181—?
1 Run 0181—1RDS—?

All chips and software are good. If the products should ever prove defective, we will send you free software. Some people paid $10,000 or more for this. Complete package $500.00 Each or Both for $900.00. If you have purchased from us, call for discount price.

100% Satisfaction Guaranteed. All orders are shipped C.O.D.

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24 Hours A Day — 7 Days A Week

If you do not have an EPROM Programmer, we will make you duplicates of the chips for $20.00 each. Minimum of 5 chips at a time.

For fastest service, when you call us tell the operator you would like us to ship the VC Tech Package C.O.D. to you or if you would like more information. Give the operator your name and phone number and the best time to call you back.

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All The Software You Need for the VC-II

"To put you in total control of the VC II Industry" from the unit 2000-2100 A0181 and higher, plus IRD's. Our A0181 and Higher is not a clone and will not alter or change your original address numbers, no ID # is required, no subscriptions to make it work, you get the Pay-Per-Views, too, and it will update each month plus it will work in the 2000, ID # 0100-0103 units and you still can use parental lockouts on all 2000-2100 units.

We will send you 5 chips plus 1 disk for IBM & compatibles with all the software you need to make any VC II work.

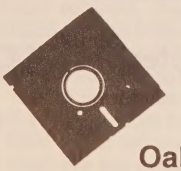
The Package Includes:

1) 1 master for the 2100 A1081, IRD's, 2000 units (it will not have to be updated monthly)
2) 1 run chip for the 2100, A0181, IRD's, 2000 units
3) 1 Generic Keys-R-Us repair chip for address numbers 0100-0106 units.
4) 1 4mt for address numbers 0100-0106 and IRDs
5) 1 4mt for address number 0100-0106 and IRD's that have been cloned.
6) 1 IBM compatible disk with the software for all the chips
7) 1 schematic for the VC II, Manual for Keys-R-Us repair chip, installation manual, epoxy remover, helpful hints, trouble shooting.

100% satisfaction guarantee.

All chips and software are good. If the products should ever prove defective, we will send you free software to upgrade. Some persons paid $10,000 or more for this. You can have it all for a limited time only for $500.00.
All orders are shipped COD.

If you do not have an EPROM programmer, we will make you duplicates of the chips for $20.00 each. Minimum of five chips at a time.



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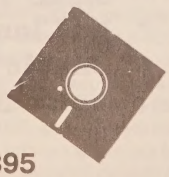

For fastest service when you call, tell the operator you would like us to ship it to you, or if you would like more information, leave you name and phone # and the best time to call you back.

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New from the Wizard . . .

New Wizard "Super Plus"!

One Chip Does All Versions of the "Cipher", No Monthly Updates Needed from G/I, Never Gets Turned Off, Even Works in "Brain Dead Boards". Turns on All Services including Pay Per Views!

How Simple Can You Get?

It's This Easy to Install a Wizard Chip in Your Unit:

Step 1. **Put Socket at U30 Position**
Step 2. **Place our Wizard Chip in Socket**
Step 3. **Plug in VC II**
Step 4. **Push Text button and "Bingo", Your VC is on.**

"FACT"

* **One Chip Does All**
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The Following Page Reprinted from Video-Tec News

TURNING OFF THE PIRATES

A little more DOOM & GLOOM

WORMS, VIRUSES, & TIME BOMBS:

This is the computer jargon for instructions placed in software that waits to do damage to your system or the software. When it comes to the VCII pirated software, you will find this stuff out there waiting to kill pirated copies of the pirates original.

A well known example is the Dooms Day Plus with the software security route. (Press SETUP and 555 to bring up the screen graphics only on PLUS keyless software, not on plain one memory Keyboard Wizards.) The story with this is that after a certain amount of time this screen will pop up and ask you for a code entry. The code is computed from the individual unit ID number for that box. But if part of the program has been modified, (example screen graphics) then the code will not take. Of course you can get it to come back up by rewriting the board, but this is definitely an inconvenience. Software with names like ICT PLUS, ULTRA PLUS, and OMNI PLUS, could be running into this problem.

Another example is the software produced by those at SECURE ONE. Copies of it will simply die. Example: you may find that your copied program of Secure One will not work after you have made so many copies. Software with names like ARMADILLO and SUPERFIX are names that may be copies.

We recommend buying directly from the developer of any software package to avoid software copy problems down the road. If you want to buy current CLONE/KEYLESS combination software, buy it from Secure One. They are the originators. If you want to buy PLUS software, buy it from VCIPHER TECH- OLOGIES or buy a DIRECT COPY OF THE DOOOMS DAYS PLUS. Copies of the plain Keyboard Wizard appear to be safe against any copy protection or virus. But as we discussed last month, the Keyboard Wizard and all the Plus software are full of TRAPS that will allow GI to turn them off if the traps are not corrected..

BASED ON THIS DOOM & GLOOM, YOU MAY BE ASKING WHAT IS THE BEST FIX FOR MY VCII AT THIS POINT IN TIME? HEAR IS HOW WE RANK THEM.

1. **SECURE ONE** & The Lizzard: The New Lizzard can hold two full sets of keys. These guys say they have the bugs out of their plus type keyless fix. Their engineer seems to be aware of all possible ECMs and they are ready for GI by removing TRAPS in the keyless part of their fix. The current price is around $1,000.00. Modified copies are available from other sources for around $500.00, but we advise staying away from copies of Secure One. They may go down due to secure copy protection. VC HACKER puts out a copy of it called ARMIDALLA, a group in Clear Water, Florida sells a copy of it, and a fix in CA called SUPERFIX is a reported copy of it.
2. **THE NO KEY,** simular to the WIZZARD without many of the bugs , but like the Wizzard with no 8 banks of memory. SOFTWARE NOT FOR SELL
3. **THE KEYBOARD WIZARD:** the later versions, again no 8 banks of memory, but the software is low priced. Follow our instructions in this letter to correct TRAP 23.
4. **THE DOOMS DAY PLUS:** This is the orginal plus software from VIDEO TECHNOLOGIES in Canada. These are good people to work with. We understand they supply free updates and helpful repair information on the VCII. If you buy it from them, they will get you back up when their special SOFTWARE SECURITY CODES are needed in the next few months. THE TRAPS ARE STILL BE IN THE DOOMS DAY. They have not updated these traps as of this date.
5. **ULTRA PLUS, ICT PLUS, WIZZARD PLUS, SUPER FIX, ARMIDALLA:** These are all copies of the DD + or Secure One and will go down when the SECURITY CODE IS ASKED FOR BY THE SOFTWARE after or around month 25. Copies of Secure One & Lizzard will just turn themselves off after about three months. The Plus security code is calculated using the box ID of which the software is installed. We understand only the people at VIDEOCIPHER TECHNOLOGIES are doing the calculations. But other sources may come out with a SECURITY CODE CALUCULATOR program for sale. Also we have been told the software will not take the Security code if some of the software has been changes, such as title graphics.

NOTE: ICT, VC HACKER, and OTHERS claim they will get you back up with new software when your box goes down. WE RECOMMEND HOLDING OFF ON INSTALLING A LOT OF THE PLUS SOFTWARE UNTIL AFTER JULY and after newer

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018-019
Battery Replacement Module and Key Extraction Module

Own the most powerful tool ever designed for you, the professional TVRO dealer. The BRM designed, manufactured and sold only by TESTRON will allow you to read, modify and restore data to ALL consumer VC's. Never a need to purchase any other data processing equipment. FREE upgrades to meet ALL future requirements.

SIMPLE TO USE AS 1,2,3.

1) **Read Keys**
2) **Use BRM**
3) **Install 018-019 3M PROTEC.**

No need for expensive EPROM copiers or complicated computer programs. Self sustaining. Allows complete testing of all consumer services, available on the VCII.

Each BRM kit includes: 1 010 BRM, 1 018-019 BRM, 1 018-019 key extraction module, 2 new batteries, 2 easy to follow manuals (010 & 018-019), 1 ram configuration chip, 6 blank key & ram table sheets, 1 018-019 3M PROTEC test module, 6 68 picofarad capacitors and 1 3.0 matrix (stock) U 30 replacement chip. Unlimited telephone technical support.

Sold only to TVRO dealers for archiving data and replacing batteries. Not intended for - and SHOULD NOT - be used for cloning or inserting 018-019 keys in 010 units.

YES!!
All 018 Series
including E & F
and
0190 & 0191 & 0192
3.0 and 3.1

SUPER USER FRIENDLY!!

only

$1,295.00

(available now - order today)

Shipping $6.00. Add $3.50 COD. (Cash, certified check or MO on COD).

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TESTRON PROMISES & TESTRON DELIVERS!

FREE

018 Battery Replacement Module and 018 Key Extraction Module

if

you previously purchased our 010 BRM for $1,250.00

(JUST SEND US A COPY OF OUR INVOICE)

IN ADDITION EACH UPGRADE KIT CONTAINS:

1 - 20 page 018 BRM manual
3 - blank 018 key & ram table sheets
1 - 018 3M PROTEC test module
6 - 68 picofarad capacitors
1 - 3.0 matrix (stock) U 30 replacement chip.

Thank you for allowing TESTRON, Inc. to serve your needs. We at TESTRON respect the confidence you have placed in our company and products. Please be assured we will make every effort to justify this confidence. Additional BRM upgrades will be provided FREE of charge in the future - if a new series of boards are manufactured.

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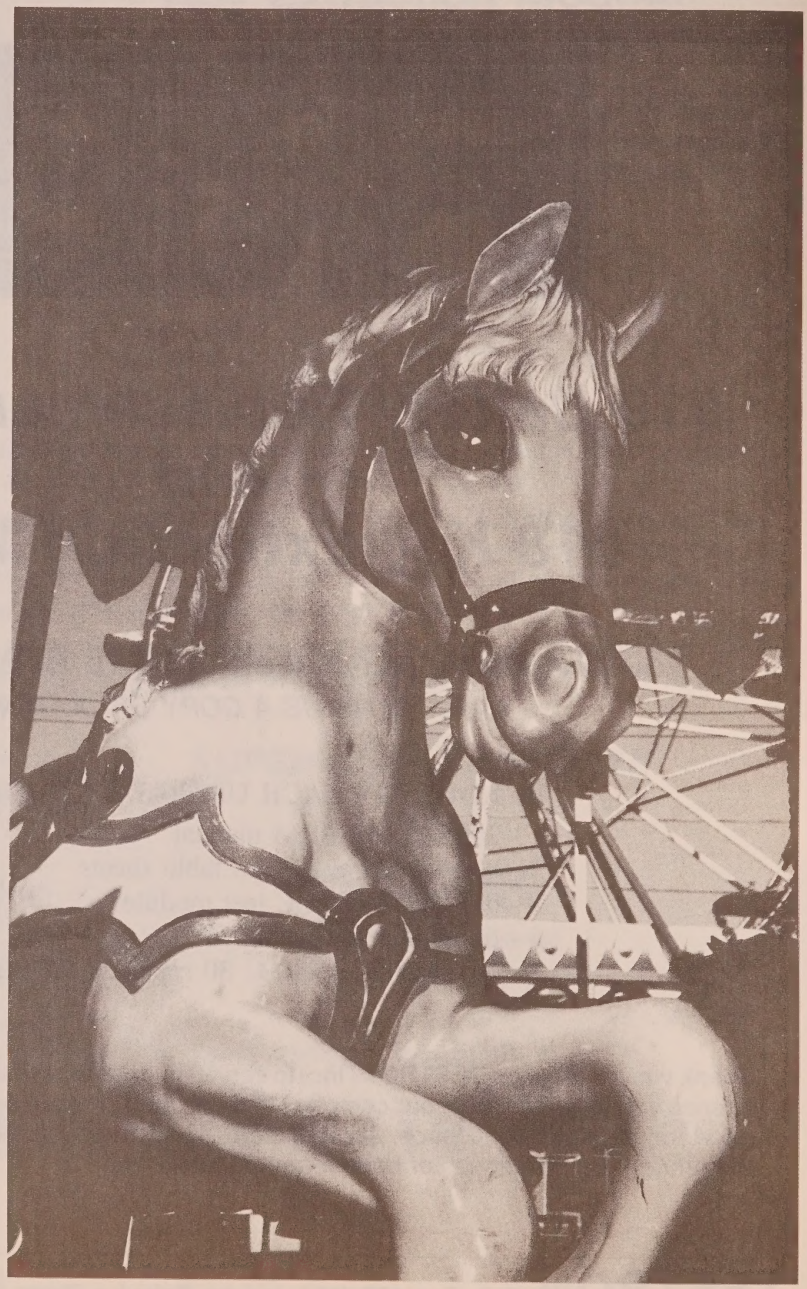
TESTRON'S PROTEC TEST DEVICES

It's like owning the brass ring.



The reason is simple. Grabbing for the brass ring means taking a trip on a merry-go-round. Sometimes you miss the ring. Sometimes you get a steel ring. And sometimes you fall off the horse.

Many new products are offered for sale in this publication each month. Each claims to have the latest whiz bang. Too often these "new" companies disappear after a very short period of time, and YOU are left holding another worthless steel ring.

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